

HENRY GEORGE NEWS

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The Blind Leaders — BY JOS. S. THOMPSON

IT IS PLAIN that we Americans are faced, throughout the world, with the responsibility of establishing a condition of general comfort and confidence, with a relaxation of the present sense of impending evil. We are deeply engaged in meeting this obligation with encouragement, goods and money; while the people of Europe, who can see now that work may bring results, are taking heart and beginning to climb back toward hoped-for economic health.

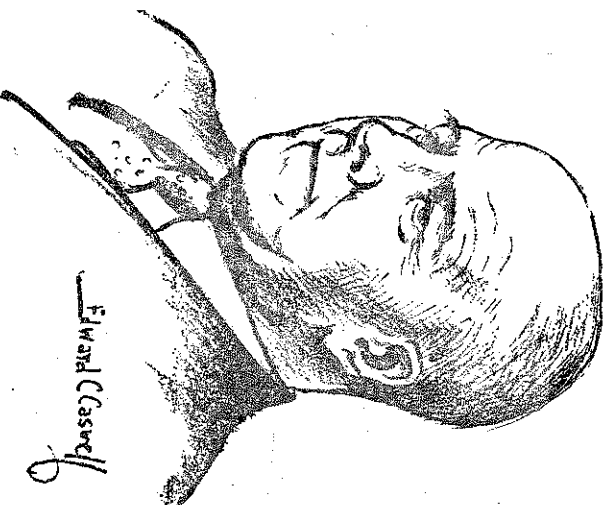
But for years to come, their condition will be sharply affected by ours, and with them, as with us, there exists a heavy dread. We are haunted with the possibility that America on whom so much depends, will have a recurrence of the fearful depression of the thirties, and we cringe at the thought of a repetition of it. Aside from a few palliative measures such as bank deposit insurance and restraint on margin gambling, we have done nothing to insure against it.

There must be come major distortion which, if understood, would seem to be the catch. Isn't it probable that this basic fault lies in the fact that we cannot (for we do not) yet distinguish between payment of tribute to privilege on the one hand, and recompense to service on the other? Manifestly this probability will bear study as to whether or not the creation of insurance against depression involves the seeking out of privilege and its separation from service.

The fault is not in our political system—no, where are people freer to say what they please. The fault is not in our industrial system—which is built on service. But when we study our taxation system we find that a cancerous growth has developed in the last few years that throttles, bleeds, stunts and threatens all that makes America great. Could privilege be fostered there?

We have a noticeable weakness in this country; we take things too readily for granted. You've always taken taxes for granted, but *taxation should not exist*. Although it was a long time ago that Chief Justice Marshall said the power to tax was the power to destroy, the full breadth and importance of his statement seems never to have been wholly grasped or emphatically enough expressed. It is taxation that destroys both good things and bad things. As a powerful means of destroying evil things, taxation is frequently used, wherein it becomes equivalent to the imposition of a fine. When you recognize this you are better equipped to analyze the subject further—a *tax is a fine*. You are fined for doing business, or for building a home.

Admittedly, public expenses must be met for there are many things that can best be done by employees of the public as a whole. What is wrong with our approach? To begin with, we are all familiar with earned private income—earned through labor, service, or investment—but only a few of us have inquired as to whether



there might not be a true, *just* earned public income; publicly earned and publicly collected.

The answer for these few who have inquired has been amply supplied by the Physiocrats, by Thomas Carlyle, by Patrick Dove, by Herbert Spencer, by John Stuart Mill, Winston Churchill and, in full, complete analysis, by Henry George. This answer is held by many scholars to be essential to the preservation of our American structure. For the rental value of the land, when collected (or *taxed* if you prefer) by the public, would provide and define the rightful earned income to which the budget should conform. Arbitrary assessments might have to be resorted to in times of war or emergency, but as it is now understood and imposed, taxation should be reserved as a repressive measure to curb or obliterate acts counter to the public interest.

It does sound like quibbling to speak of abolishing taxation and then advocate the public collection of land rent, but here is the difference in the procedure. The rental value of the land is the amount individuals will pay for its exclusive use. It is easy to "capitalize" such an amount. Simply figure the amount of capital that, at current interest rates, would earn the same amount as the rent. The value of the land is thus set by the rent. Assess it at that value. Tax it at the same current interest rate, and the public is collecting the rent it creates. Now you will find that public needs are being met and all taxes that add to the cost of living or doing business have disappeared.

And here is the difference in the principle. Land costs nothing in human effort or creativeness. If land is all that a man wants, he can get square miles of it in some parts of the country for nothing. It must be more than land, and it is . . . land in desirable places, so the rental value of the land might better be called "location value." Here, through our failure to discern who creates it, is where the landlord comes in. Does the landlord furnish location? No,

location has value only when people are present and increases in value only when the number of people increases. So to go a little further, location value is really "people value" the value of being permitted to occupy an advantageous location that others also wish to occupy *among people*.

In short, our present land system permits and encourages the collection of tribute. Ability to collect tribute is a legally conferred privilege.

You will never get away from that deep-seated desire that everyone has to have his own piece of land . . . a place he can call his own. This is another sentiment we've been taking for granted. Nobody in this country owns his own piece of land. Just let him fall long enough to pay such tax as is levied against it and the house on it and the belongings in the house are "sold for taxes."

The simple mechanism outlined above would correct our medieval revenue system, utilize present methods, equipment and personnel, and arrive by the test of the market at the desirability of all parcels, periodically adjusting appraisal and taxation to absorb the rent paid by the occupants. It would be a straight business matter, few changes would be needed in our laws. Henry Buckle said, "Every great reform which has been effected has consisted, not in doing something new, but in undoing something old. The best laws which have been passed have been those by which some former laws have been repealed." Think of the laws that would slip down the drain if common sense prevailed!

Our failure to discern the difference between privilege and service is stupid enough in its direct impact on our revenue policy. But there is a worse product of this failure that powerfully stifles and distorts our efforts to press on to security—*land speculation*.

Here again we take things for granted. We think of the speculator as taking monstrous chances, of cornering markets, or living dangerously, reaping profit or crashing in defeat. There is nothing of that. Quietly and conservatively he "buys land," but he doesn't really buy land, he merely buys the privilege of a title deed to a location. He hopes it will increase in value! That more people will need it! When he buys to sell later at a higher price he becomes an obstructionist. He serves no purpose, does nothing useful but is merely a legalized holdup man.

Perhaps you are thinking, what about great corporations? What about owners of stocks and bonds, capital, fat profits, monopolies, cartels—millionaires? Corporations are formed to perform service or to exploit through privilege, or frequently, to combine the two. To the extent that they perform service, they should retain their earnings, however large. To the extent that they exploit through privilege, they should not be free to exist. We must distinguish between the thing itself and any evil misuse to which it may be put.

(Continued on Page Three)

A Word With You

By ROBERT CLANON

"To those who, seeing the vice and misery that spring from the unequal distribution of wealth and privilege, feel the possibility of a higher social state and would strive for its attainment."

Thus did George dedicate his *Progress and Poverty*. In itself, this dedication is a clarion call.

Multitudes of good-souled people have so seen, so felt and so striven. Why haven't more of them heeded George's call, come forward to enlist, receive their "basic training," and serve? Is it because, when they are ready for a call, more strident trumpets are sounding? "Come with me," hures one, "I will lead you to an ideal society. You only need to overturn the present rotten system, help install ours, and then you will have position, security, everything." You don't have to guess that this noisiest of trumpets is communism. It is only one of many. The cacophony of social gospels runs the gamut from the flute-toting of the do-gooders to the drum-beating of the give-'em-hell-ers. And the voice of the siren is in most of them.

Wonder not, then, that the clear, steady call of the clarion is temporarily drowned out. Or that more of those in George's dedication are not heeding. The competition is terrific.

Of course, competition is healthy, but it's too bad the lines aren't more clearly drawn. The army of Ormuzd—of right, of freedom, of justice—could use more of those who would strive for a better society. And it's too bad that more of these good-souled folks don't fully trust the one weapon given to the recruits of Ormuzd—the weapon of reason, of principle. It's a good sturdy weapon and few are the enemies who care or dare to meet its level aim. But it's not so spectacular as the juggernaut of revolution or so falsely comforting as the fox-holes of social legislation.

When the juggernauts collapse and the fox-holes turn out to be mud-holes, reason, and principle will remain. The people will remain (we hope). And we can do nothing else but have faith that the twin shall meet. Then may the dedication of *Progress and Poverty* be uttered with the question, "Are you ready at last?"

You can't afford to let your Henry George News lapse. Renew promptly for several years, as many subscribers do. Our printing costs go up with this issue.

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VIEWS OF THE NEWS

By SYDNEY MAYERS

Said Humorist James J. Montague, "Maybe all men were equal before the law, but since the law came there has been a lot of difference."

A new Cuban law requires landowners to lease tillable land unless it is being farmed personally or by tenants; refusal means increased taxes. Among other benefits, says the news report, "it is predicted that land values, which are excessively high, will decline."

With America's help and blessing, Italy and Yugoslavia are engaging in trade negotiations, with a view to exchanging each other's surplus goods. Who said never the East-West twain shall meet?

The United States Supreme Court has upheld an \$800,000 award to an Oklahoma landowning corporation, this being not the land's intrinsic value, but its appraisal as a public power site. Thus is private land tenure defended—but just who created that public value?

The United Nations has adopted four resolutions "aimed at promoting economic development in undeveloped countries." We will gladly submit a simple "resolution" making all the rest unnecessary.

A story in The New York Times about gold prospecting in New Guinea brought a rush of inquiries to that newspaper and to the Australian Information Bureau. Isn't it remarkable how instinctively men seek access to productive land to "satisfy their desires"?

The Motion Picture Association of America urges a reduction in trade barriers to permit the free flow of both American and foreign films throughout the world. Fine—but why stop with movies?

Following Britain's lead, eight other nations have abolished travel visas, with more expected to follow. This may be a small gesture, but see how quickly a beneficial reform can gain adherents.

Maintaining that "American shipping is being subsidized by unreasonably high ocean freight rates," Administrator Hoffman threatens to ship ERP cargoes by foreign vessels, unless American ships meet "competitive rates." There's a market on the ocean as well as on the land!

"Stern measures" to curb absenteeism in British coal mines include first warnings, then fines, then such action as the Coal Board "thinks proper, in the courts or in other ways." Hail, glorious socialism!

The chief Austrian delegate to the UNESCO complains that the standard musical "A" pitch, fixed by world accord in 1885, is no longer universally observed. Will the United Nations' work *never* be done?

The military command in Soviet Eastern Berlin has offered a "gift" of a half-pound of sugar to any Western Berliner who joins their food rolls. And that, they know, is better than a ton of propaganda.

Apparently viewing with envy the success enjoyed by publishers of tax manuals, the Federal government is now selling a 115-page booklet on "How to Prepare an Income Tax Return." How much it costs, we know not, but it sells to you lucky taxpayers for 25 cents a copy.

Postmaster General Donaldson cheerfully estimates a \$350,000,000 department deficit for 1949. The Post Office is the agency pointed to with pride as a model of governmental business efficiency.

Tax-free educational institutions are having a gay time engaging in large scale commercial ventures, such as: filling stations, walnut groves, cattle ranches and a spaghetti factory. Much concerned, the House Ways and Means Committee is busy devising ways and means.

The National Association of Travel Agents accuses oil, lumber, mineral and grazing interests of "determined and ruthless" efforts to throw the government (*sic*) out of the national parks. Huhmmmm!

Thank you, Mildred Berger, Robert Beeler, Hugues Fua-Lamercine, Harry Lundin and Lionel Watts, for your welcome contributions.

Econo-quiz

By HENRY L. TIDEMAN

Question: When organized labor gets higher wages than they could get if unorganized doesn't the increase come out of the wages of others?

Answer: We must remember that of the three factors in production, land and labor are primary and that capital never pays wages. In terms of distribution, this leaves two funds into which wealth, when produced, falls: wages and rent.

Wages depend upon the margin of cultivation, being higher or lower as the margin is more or less productive. This law of wages, being reinforced by the passion of men to get for themselves as much as possible of the product of their toil, is relatively rigid.

The rent fund is in the nature of an adjustment. It is the take-up, which absorbs all the surplus wealth produced over that which the margin of cultivation enables laborers and capitalists to command. Land holders collect and retain the rent by common consent and legal force.

When the margin of cultivation is fairly stable, the rent fund grows or diminishes as production increases or decreases. In an area where rent exists, if groups of laborers, well organized, refuse in concert to work and successfully prevent others from working in their places, they operate as a monopoly. Winning the contest and getting wages greater than the margin of cultivation enables them to yield, the increased wages must be yielded from the rent fund. There is no other fund subject to adjustment. Rent is not reduced. It is redistributed.

The bargain having been settled, the value of some lands will decline and that of others will not rise so rapidly, until a new equilibrium has been established. Then organized laborers will enjoy incomes made up of wages plus rent. The superficial observer will see only that these workers are more prosperous and get their incomes from payrolls. Such increased wages will become a subject of statistical tables of wages.

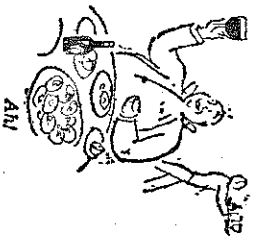
But regardless of our pleasure over the increased prosperity of the shapers in the "wage increase," in could fact the increase is rent; it is not wages.

We can see this more clearly, if we will imagine an area where wages are held to artificially high levels; then if some force should reduce wages to a competitive level, would not rent and land values rise to take up the slack?

Georgist Notes on Denmark

ADRESSING the opening of the centenary session of the Danish Rigsdag (Parliament) Premier Hedtoft outlined the principal features of his party's program, as follows: trade restriction introduced *during the war* to be abolished, lower income brackets to get tax relief, a committee to be established to control monopolies and trusts, voting age to be reduced from 25 to 21 years of age, and legislation to be introduced to increase taxation on consumer's cooperatives and land values.

The Wholesale Merchants' Gazette a Danish trade newspaper, lambasts the Social Democrats (ruling majority) for the limited reform of trade restrictions. In the pre-election campaign it was assumed from speeches made by the majority party that all trade restrictions would be repealed, particularly the Foreign Exchange Center law of 1932. This law paved the way for protectionism, planned economy and industrial subsidies the attendant bureaucracy, actually decreased the workman's *real wages* by 12 per cent. In illustrating the absurdity of national planned economy Vejen Frem published this cartoon.



"Stout Has Arrived"

"Isn't it a splendid idea; the English can't afford drinking their own stout, and we Danes can't afford to have our own beer, and so we exchange it, each exporting to the other! Wonderful isn't it!"

Socialization Through the Back Door

The Social Democrat majority argues that socialized housing can rent apartments cheaper than private enterprise, but neglects to mention that the government corners the materials market, restricts private builders and subsidizes cooperative building with the taxpayers' money.

An extensive publicity campaign launched by the Justice Party, inviting the public to a series of taxation forums began in October of this year. Over 100,000 Forum leaflets were distributed with ration cards in the public schools while platoons of demonstrators carrying huge placards paraded through the streets of Copenhagen. "How To Reduce Our Burdensome Taxation" is the theme of these meetings, which are presided over by Georgists Knud Tholstrup and Robert F. Jensen.

In parliament, the Justice Party members were elected to three permanent committees of the government. They voted against the increased subsidies for the Danish Airlines and protection of the peat industry by tariffs. The production of oil from peat was a wartime measure, expensive and uneconomical. Knud Tholstrup asked the Danish Parliament to re-

move the tariffs on imported oil which is cheaper and finer than the home produced product. He also pointed out that the subsidies to keep down the consumer prices on milk and bacon were no longer necessary and directed the Minister of Agriculture's attention to the fact that cooking fat could be imported from America at half the price it sells for in Denmark if the trade barriers were removed. Although the Justice Party gets very little notice in the Danish independent newspapers, its influence is realized in spirited public action. When the Justice Party initiated a signed protest to the Minister of Finance criticizing the present system of restrictive taxes, workers groups followed suit with similar protests. It is true, however, that all parties are agreed that taxes are too high, but almost in the same breath the Conservatives and the Social Democrats seek ways to give free lunches in the schools . . .

Write to Auntie in America

Many Danish business men have accepted the war-time measures of doing business. They have mastered the red tape, quota reports and other restrictions and they find that these restrictions assure them of a buyers' market due to the artificial shortage of materials. In the garment industry the small retailers belatedly realize, with some dismay, that sales are gradually falling off. It appears that the consumers would rather do without the drab new garments which the Trade Directorate thinks fitting for the Danish public. The Directorate does authorize the import of good English wool and worsted with the stipulation that the manufactured finished clothing be sold to Norwegians, Swedes and Finns for hard money or American currency. However the potential buyers have discovered that fine woollens and worsted can be purchased directly from England, and the Danes are left holding their planned economy materials. Canning officialdom found that dollars could be had for this material if each Dane wrote to a relative in the U.S.A. for dollars in order to purchase material. A small-town clothier elaborately displayed 500 yards of English material with a sign stating that the cloth can be bought for \$32 in check or cash, and continues with the following "write to your aunt or uncle or somebody in America willing to send you dollars and I can sell you enough for a suit."

Adjacent to this display was another, showing more fine English material—the legend reads "For Finns, for Swedes, and Norwegians" and opposite these was a drab tweed suit of mediocre quality marked "for Danes." Other signs read: "if we were free from the Trade Directorate *you too* could get the merchandise you want" and "the authorities are more interested in prices than in quality goods, we clothiers can solve the problems of supply if we are permitted to manage our own purchases!"

It is hoped that displays like these will open the eyes of the Danish public to the inadequacies of planned economy. As Professor Wilhelm Ropke stated at a Jutland University, the only factor that up to now has prevented the collapse of planned economy in Denmark is America's helping hand—it alone keeps this so called democratic socialism from falling into the abyss of totalitarian collectivism.

—ARTHUR LEA

The Blind Leaders

(Continued from Page One)

Land is not capital and does not cost anything in human effort. Everything else does. That is the difference which sharply and cleanly separates land rental from payment for the use of buildings, tools, and stocks in trade. Capital is a tool, and the man who created it should retain what he earns from its use. Tools are used to perform service, they should be encouraged. Money invested in the privilege of exacting tribute in the form of land rent is not capital—it is not usefully invested.

All monopolies other than land are simply opportunities for someone to get a little more that he deserves for what he gives, until competition or buyer resistance checks him. Cartels? Stockholders and bondholders? They are simply participants in corporations that may be good and useful or evil and leechlike. Remove privilege and they will adjust with the change.

The resentment against big corporations is purely habit thinking. Admittedly some are evil, but most of them spend fabulous sums in research seeking new processes, economies, and products, and you buy from them because you want their product. You don't have to. You can buy something else or refrain from buying. But you do have to have a little space on earth. That is one monopoly you can't escape. What other monopoly were you ever compelled to deal with? Nobody ever had to buy a particular make of car. Nobody ever had to buy a copyrighted novel that made an author rich.

Where would we have been in 1942 if it had not been for our great financial structure? Yet the National Association of Manufacturers has been the target of elaborate abuse and has spent millions of dollars, attempting, and with little success, to make the American people realize the greatness of something that they should be automatically and unitedly enthusiastic about.

A wise friend once said to me that there is a difference in the definition of the word *capital* here and in Europe. Here it is a method of doing business—there it is a class. The preponderance of class there is based on the claim to land "ownership." The landed gentry soon came into possession of everything, including the people on the land.

How fine it would be if we could say to other nations, "abolish privilege and all taxation that can increase the cost of living. As you prosper your land rental will grow. Collect that and that only—spend it in the public interest. Your industries will pay higher wages when they are freed of taxation. Your land, freed of speculators or idle landlords, will be accessible to those who can use it. Employment will be provided and workers will soon be scarcer than jobs. Earning workers make sound customers for business. Since no one will live by tribute, effort will bring more reward. Then if you want help we'll help you . . . but you won't need it."

The dream of economic freedom in a peaceful world is now in the process of being realized. All the other accomplishments were first dreams, then blue-prints, then material realities. Our dream is being changed into a blueprint in the minds of our students. Frustration and hopelessness drop from them. They now have economic freedom for the focus of their minds. Each one who learns becomes a unit in an expanding dream, and when enough are taught, they will do what is necessary to make the dream a reality. —EVA L. MAXWELL

“Free Trade Is Natural . . . Land Tenure

Philadelphia

There is a time for work and a time for rest. In nature man sees the rhythmic pattern; movement and rest. Mountains in their serenity and grandeur manifest strength born of stillness. If you really want to accomplish anything, learn to be still. We have movement and rest—ebb and flow. Water is the softest liquid in the world, yet it wears away the hardest stone.

These are but a few gems from Joseph Stockman's talk "What of China" at the Henry George School in New York. Perhaps he will be remembered longest for the seven basic terms of Henry George illustrated with ideographs. We hope to reproduce these in a later issue if we can wear away the stone-like modesty of this jade-like director.

The philosophies of China, we learned, are earthy and mortal. The soul cannot flourish unless the belly is fat. When the people are hungry it is because their rulers eat too much tax grain, therefore the unruliness of hungry people is due to the interference of their rulers. When a ruler misrules he is no better than a common thief. In the fourth century economists advocated, as did Henry George, charging only a ground rent—no taxes on goods or houses. Foodstuffs would then be as cheap as fire or water, and no one could possibly claim the labor of others without just compensation. That is basic. Free trade is natural.

Many people have been asking Mr. Stockman what is going on in China. Naturally, he takes the long view. Something which happened a thousand years ago may just now be taking form. At this time the bulk of the peasants of China is no more active in the Civil War and has no more interest in it than our people have in the Einstein theory. Most of them can't read, but they have their folk tales and folk songs before them all the time. The Red Army will absorb China and will become less red as the years go on. The Chinese know one thing, and that is that wealth comes through labor, assisted by capital on land, and there is no other way to get it. They will assimilate what good the Reds have in regard to their land program. Those who know say it is impossible to make Communists of the Chinese. They have always believed in private property and do not believe the government has any right to say what they shall do with it.

Basically land tenure is underneath everything. There is no perfect land tenure so there can never be any perfect people. China was the first nation willing to give up sovereignty as a nation. Ninety-nine per cent of the people don't know there is a Chinese Constitution. They are suspicious of anything written on paper. If it is necessary to put down rules of order then it is apparent that order has lost its place. It's hazardous to be rich in China. Landowners are fair game. The story of Robin Hood is being re-enacted on a massive scale with our money!

Other visitors from Philadelphia were: Lucia Cipolloni, Olive Moore and Rose Bardack, the Henry George News Correspondent. We were told of the zealous efforts of Bertha Sellers and Gilbert Cope to open a class in Fundamental Economics at West Chester. The location assigned was the Police Station and when the instructor, Warren Edgar, arrived on opening night, he found a prisoner shackled to the radiator. It seems the man had been forgotten and authorities had to be summoned, after which the class got off to a rolling start. Mr. Edgar attends the West Chester State Teachers College and lectured there on Henry George.

Newark

The next speaker in the New York "Friday Evenings at Eight" series was John T. Tetley. Mr. Tetley remembers well his beginnings in Georgism. In the summer of 1933 a piece of mail was received at his home addressed to a young man who roomed with them. On the outside appeared the words "Are Depressions Necessary?" His curiosity was aroused and he asked permission to read the circular. It was from the Henry George School of New York and offered a free course in Fundamental Economics. The enrollment card was sent off at once—he went—he learned and he was convinced. For many years he was an instructor and today he is director of the Henry George School of Social Science for New Jersey.

Speaking of the scope of economics, Mr. Tetley pointed out that economics deals with three major classes of problems: physical, pecuniary, and social. From the physical standpoint, economics may be defined as the science which deals with the wealth-producing and wealth-using activities of man. From the pecuniary standpoint as the science which deals with the "money-making" and "money spending" activities of men. Social economics may be defined as the science which deals with making material product and pecuniary advantage contribute most to human welfare.

The speaker related how a much beloved teacher in New Jersey, Dr. Elizabeth Bowen, had taught Fundamental Economics using Henry George's classic *Progress and Poverty*. This was of course never intended by the author as a textbook and Dr. Bowen, who kept voluminous notes on her classroom discussions, found that the students encountered numerous difficulties. Her experimental notes for simplified teaching grew into the book known as *Economics Simplified* of which her surviving husband, George L. Rusby is co-author. This shorter text, which does not go into consumption or cover the law of human progress, is now used in all New Jersey classes as the textbook with *Progress and Poverty* recommended for supplementary reading.

The director, in his fair appraisal and discussion of definitions and teaching methods, said at once that it was not his purpose to compare the two books. He quoted from an article in *The Henry George News* by Newark's dean, Alexander M. Goldfinger, pointing out that "The Goal is the Same" and that while methods differ, "naught should divide those who pursue divergent methods from the cooperation which should enhance their combined efforts and which will ultimately achieve the final goal, the freedom of mankind from want and the fear of want."

Miss V. G. Peterson of the Schalkenbach Foundation, publishers of *Economics Simplified* (now ready in a revised edition) was the chairman for the meeting. Also in the audience were Mr. and Mrs. George Meyer, both of whom are faculty members in Newark, and Dr. Geoffrey Eddy a trustee of both the Newark and New York Henry George Schools.

Fall commencement exercises were held in Newark's well filled auditorium with Dorothy Meyer presiding. Dean Goldfinger spoke on "What Is the Henry George School?" Director Tetley introduced the instructors who in turn presented certificates to student—followed by short talks from class representatives.

Boston

To sell the Henry George philosophy to others; take their self-interest to heart, add a generous amount of sympathy; then fold in your *George* well beaten.

This formula has been tried with outstanding success by the inimitable Dorothy Sara, who journeyed to Boston at her own expense early in December to share her abundant experience in spreading the philosophy of freedom. Her talk was packed with wit and the kind of horse-sense for which she is noted in the book publishing business, and Perkins Hall was packed with new graduates and well wishers who gave her rapt attention. [Miss Sara's advice, in somewhat abbreviated form, will appear in the February issue.]

Many of the fall term graduates left the dinner to return home and study their lessons, for they were scheduled to progress from the fundamental course into international trade without so much as a week's interval. Classes are meeting at the Old South Building on Monday's, Wednesdays and Saturdays; in Cambridge and Medford as well; while the South Shore enthusiasts discuss social problems in Quincy. With the new graduates so occupied, it is a wonder that any of the winter term mailing got addressed!

Following the acquisition of a coffee pot in mid-December, the transition of the school library into a social center was accelerated. After several gatherings devoted to ways and means of surmounting the extension's fiscal problems, a series of Friday Evenings on the detractors of George got under way. Hackles rose and cups clattered in the saucers as Walker's *Land and Its Rent* and Seligman's *Essays in Taxation* were subjected to star-chamber proceedings and dealt with accordingly.

St. Louis

The Henry George News is for graduates and friends of the school. Not long ago it was a 4-page paper with \$1 a year subscription price. Now it is 8-pages; price the same. How's that for counter-inflation? Not only that, there has been a great increase in content value as well.

These are but a very few of the kind words that Noah Alper sends out to his St. Louis constituents about the school paper. Sometimes he gets rough with us, but he always makes it good with subscriptions. And how we appreciate it!

How I First Became Int

I first saw the name of Henry George in a paper copy of *Protection or Free Trade* mailed by Tom L. Johnson, Jerry Simp was fifteen and must have been too in and re-read with delight. Yet my twin about the same time, when at the noon boys for his opinion on the subject.

Two years later one of the teachers on "The Rights of Man" and he used a I procured the book and read it. The first a copy of *The Land Question*, and through the local book store I sent it *Poverty* which cost one dollar. And—h

'Underneath Everything' — JOSEPH STOCKMAN

The St. Louis extension held its fall term exercises at the Young Men's Hebrew Association where 67 graduates received their certificates of attendance. Joseph W. Forshaw, Olympic athlete (Marathon Run, Athens 1906, London 1908, and Stockholm 1912) spoke on the topic "A St. Louis Business Man Views the Henry George Movement Through the Years."

As a student of the first St. Louis high school, Mr. Forshaw debated affirmatively for the "single tax" in 1897 before an audience of 1700, and *the affirmative side won*. His talk was rich in examples of local speculation in land. The speaker's father was one of the original Georgists of St. Louis who was active in the group that gave Missouri its Initiative and Referendum.

A feature of the program was music by Roland and Spencer Parnas, nephews of David Parnas, a St. Louis instructor. Richard, violinist, a current graduate, is eighteen. Spencer, who accompanied him on the piano, is fifteen. These young men, two of four children of rare musical talent, will bear watching.

Class representatives were: Mrs. Inez Boyd, Alfred R. Koch and George C. Clark. Two first-time class instructors were Julius Kahre and C. C. Case. The latter started with eight students, in the Wellston High School class, and ended with eight students—and had 100 per cent attendance at all class sessions. Mrs. Ross H. Schachner, of the Richmond Heights class, started with four students and also had 100 per cent records, though a husband and wife team that started later was forced to drop out because of illness. A. B. C. Dexter of University City acted as chairman of the graduation exercises.

Los Angeles

One hundred and nineteen graduates of the fall classes in Fundamental Economics received their certificates at the commencement celebration on December 13th, and their enthusiasm made this commencement one of the most stimulating meetings that has been held in the Los Angeles area.

The program included a "Quiz the Experts" session. The "experts" consisted of three faculty members who answered questions from the graduates on particularly tough points in the course. Also included on the program was a talk by Director Bill Truheart on "Current Economic Problem and Georgist Progress." He

rested in Henry George

ge in print when my father received the that had been franked through the n and other. That was in 1892 and I nature to read what I afterwards read brother attacked the tariff vigorously hour he was asked by the high school

was preparing a pupil to write an essay per bound edition of *Social Problems*, ter of one of the high school boys had too I borrowed. A few years later a cloth-bound copy of *Progress and I am.*

D. W. McINTIRE,
Areyle, Michigan.
(*Continued on Page Eight*)

touched on housing, inflation, and the spread of communism.

Adolph E. Hartmann was Master of Ceremonies, and George E. Lee presided at the presentation of certificates. The panel of experts consisted of William Hoffman, George E. Lee and Erik Miller. Short talks were also given by three graduates: Sydney Shaffer, Mrs. Louise Marie Mendoza and Donald O. Hawes.

Unbeknownst to William Truheart (who fell asleep not long ago and dreamed he visited heaven) we received a most complimentary letter from his next-door neighbor. "To say that they are one of the best young couples in the world," he writes, "is putting it in a mild form." This "good neighbor" also lived next door to Miss Norma Cooley, who, he writes, "was an angel on earth." [Georgists are *such* nice people!]

Ohio

Charles W. Davis, Jr., Ph.D., director of the Toledo extension of the Henry George School which meets regularly in the Main Library, held a dinner meeting at the Elks Club in November for the awarding of certificates to those who completed the course in Fundamental Economics. Gilbert M. Tucker of Albany, guest speaker, discussed *The Self-Supporting City*—he being the author of the celebrated book by that title.

Those who received certificates were: Donald Calvert, Joseph C. Jordan, Ida Grace Gilbert, Robert Wit, H. B. Godbey, Hal Anders, Charles W. Davis, Sr., John Pickett, Stephen Vollmeyer, James Rafferty, Bruce Elmore, John Hart, David Van Steyn, John Steadney, George Bowe, W. H. Hartung and John Symonds. Among the guests were: Robert D. Franklin, Assistant Librarian of Toledo Public Libraries; Mrs. Charles Davis and Verlin Gordon.

Chicago

Miss Cecil Cowherd, former publicity secretary, now class promotion director of the school, is bearing down on organization of classes for the winter term opening the week of January 24. Of a possible 50 basic and 10 advanced classes, Miss Cowherd reports arrangements so far completed for 30.

A number of first-time instructors will be eager students of the teachers review class, which will meet in the Loop on Mondays for a last-minute refresher on the lesson of the week. Attilio Forte will lead the review.

"The thought and system of Henry George," a new course offered for the first time this fall, will again be conducted by Gustave Carus.

A number of basic classes in firms throughout the city are also in prospect.

Frank Chodorov of New York editor of *analysis*, will present a series of three lectures under auspices of the school Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, January 12, 13 and 14 in the LaSalle hotel. His subjects are "Society, Government and the State," "The Neo-Malthusianism," and "Inflation—Depression in Disguise." Chairmen will be Thomas G. Deering, Arthur D. Foyet, and Miss Myrtle Cash. Fee: \$5 for the series, \$7 per couple, \$2 per lecture.

Ottawa

"The truth is, and from this truth there can be no escape, that there is and can be no just title to an exclusive possession of the soil, and that private property in land is a bold, bare, enormous wrong, like that of chattel slavery." "The majority of men in civilized communi-

ties do not recognize this, simply because the majority of men do not think..."

This idea is foremost in the minds of the Ottawa Henry George Society members as they recommence their studies in the New Year; and they know fully that if the minority work towards the proper goal, the majority will finally come into the sunshine of enlightenment. A very small proportion of heaven is required for the loaf.

Montreal

Miss Strehel Walton has had as her guest recently the "knapsack traveler," Miss Elizabeth Riley, who, after two years abroad is returning to Vancouver to teach economics in the evening classes. "I shall use Henry George's *Progress and Poverty* for my textbook," she says, "because I believe his ideas are basic in understanding the economic problems of our times."

Miss Riley spent a year in Copenhagen looking after the house and family of Dr. V. Starcke, leader of Denmark's Justice Party. Then she hitchhiked through Norway and Sweden and saw Switzerland, France, Holland and Belgium by bicycle. She has been interested in economics since she was twelve, and everywhere she went she talked to others about this subject which, she says "is the study of natural laws," and found they were as interested as she.

Pittsburgh

Richard Howe writes that three classes will start there in January—one at headquarters (former office of the beloved ex-mayor, William McNair), one in Crafton, a suburb; and one in Turtle Creek for union members.

Mario L. Bove, the Pittsburgh Treasurer received a request for two correspondence courses from Portugal. One was from a monarch in exile and the other was from one of his aides. Truly, logic knows no station!

New York

The fall term came to a close at headquarters with 260 graduates of Fundamental Economics and 185 who completed the advanced courses. Graduates of classes outside headquarters are expected to total 100.

Completion exercises for fall term students were held at the school where the large audience overflowed into the hall and onto the staircase. Students offered short talks in varied moods—there was wit, seriousness, poetry, philosophy and enthusiasm. The speakers included: Herbert Pearson, Ethel Kwalbrow, Ed Woodhead, Randall Forsythe, Eugene Sturman, Annette Ebin, Harry Christian, Samuel Shavitz, James Pusey, Robert Huggins, Philip Hultier, Hazel Smith, Louis Friedman, Tony Marrella and George Maan. A quartette of choral singers entertained with Christmas carols.

Winter classes in Fundamental Economics begin at headquarters the week of January 17 and advanced classes the week of January 10. Besides International Trade-Social Problems and the Science of Political Economy the advanced classes include: Review of Fundamental Economics, Bernard Goldstein, instructor; Public Speaking, Joseph B. Rose; Current Events, Sydney Mayers; Law of Property, Arnold Weinstein; Art Workshop, John Frew.

With increasing class and extra-curricular activity, the school building is being used to capacity and accordingly, Arthur Lea, new Regional Secretary, has organized 12 outside classes in the metropolitan area for the winter term. These include classes in the three adult education centers of the Board of Education—the Taft High School, Bronx; the Jefferson

(Continued on Page Eight)

Frederick Verinder

Mr. A. W. Madsen of London, Editor of Land & Liberty, writes:

"I regret to inform you of the death of Frederick Verinder which took place at his home 9 Elm Park Avenue, Tottenham, London, N. 15, on Friday night, November 19th. He was in his nineteenth year. All his colleagues pay tribute to his memory and to his distinguished service in the Henry George cause as writer, speaker and secretary of the English League over a period of sixty-four years. Messages of sympathy to the bereaved relatives may be sent to Miss Edith Verinder at the address as above."

A cutting from The Times (London) thoughtfully submitted by Miss Phyllis Evans, states that the deceased was for many years general secretary of the British League for the Taxation of Land Values—a position he has held ever since 1884 when the league was formed as the Land Reform Union. In the winter of 1881-2 he first heard of Henry George's book *Progress and Poverty*, and two years later helped to organize George's first campaign.

Reply from Modesto

MR. JOHN C. LINCOLN asks comment on his statement on "Land Values and Wages." For the good of the movement, if he and all writers will use the word "landholder" and not "landowner," it will help to break down the tendency to worship "landowners." An important sidelight he could have given labor is the fact that *in economics manufacturers are not employers.*

As a buyer of a Lincoln Electric Company motor to drive my pump or cool my refrigerator, I employ the men in Mr. Lincoln's plant. If orders stop coming in, men begin going out. Consumers are employers, and to have permanent prosperity we must build consumer buying power to the point where each consumer can buy goods of a value equal to those he produces. So long as landholders may take from consumers all but a bare living, consumers so impoverished cease to furnish employment.

—GEO. CARTWRIGHT

A Unanimous Name For Our Movement

WE ARE all one in our aims. Why not a common name for us all? The following may be suggested:—

Land Rent Restoration With Taxation Abolition League.

It may be said: "The title is too long." But such a glorious Movement is worthy of such length, especially so explanatory.

The ideal title is in one word. Opposition Movements have it in "Marxism," "Socialism," "Communism." Have we not the one word that will bring these titles to naught? Will we not later rise to the occasion and proclaim as our title "Georgism"? The time is not yet, but we must work for it, that "Georgism" shall be the Movement that will rejuvenate the world by prevailing throughout mankind.

This surely is the destiny of our Movement if we falter not.

From Liberal Leader of New Zealand, Mata-mata, N. Z.

Comfortable Income Five Dollars a Week

ARCHIE MATTESON sent us a newspaper story illustrating the purchasing power of the dollar, which, as he commented, "would prove most useful to instructors in our classes."

Briefly the data as reported by the Boston press, is this: One Lewis M. Woodbridge died the other day at the age of 85. When he was 29 he won a prize in a Boston Globe election contest, of \$5 a week for life. At that time the average wage of drapers and yard goods salesmen was \$4 a week. Mill hands in the textile factories in New England were paid \$3.40 a week for six days of 10 to 12 hours a day.

In a word, though he was a bachelor, \$5 a week in 1893 would have been a comfortable income for the head of a large family. Milk was 2c a quart and eggs 10c a dozen. Even a penny was important. A fine suit of clothes would come to \$6.50—the best shoes were \$1.50. Five dollars a week over and above what a man made at almost any job, states the Boston Globe, made him a man of means—"a well dressed dandy on a bicycle...."

By 1913, however, it would not even pay the rent for an average middle class family. Mr. Woodbridge was fifty then and disappointed that the purchasing power of his prize money had not remained steady. By the time he was 75 the weekly check would scarcely keep his automobile supplied with gas. Yes, he did marry, after all, and his wife survives. A Globe reporter called on her and she said wistfully, referring to the longest sustained prize payment on record, "I'll miss my *pin money*."

That, friends, is what the comfortable income of half a century ago is today—pin money!

The Wealth Poll

RICHARD VAN HORN announced in these pages three months ago an attempt on the part of Wealth Incorporated, of which he is president, to determine the extent of the drift toward communism (if any) in this country. Mr. Van Horn now writes, "the results were so interesting that further and more detailed tabulation has been undertaken." He sent in figures, however, on the following question, *Will you be making a better living than now in 5 years?*

Out of 100 men who answered this 18 said "No," 45 said "Yes," and 37 didn't know. Out of 83 women 16 said "No," 24 said "Yes," and 43 didn't know. These were about evenly distributed between employed and self-employed groups. Only 100 listed their incomes as being over \$5,000, and in this number 59 expected a better living five years from now, 13 did not, and 28 said they didn't know.

Most of those who were optimistic about the future were counting on advancing in their jobs. Among the men, 33 thought it might come about through "good times," but only 3 women seemed sanguine on this point. About half of those expecting to rise in their jobs were earning over \$5,000 yearly.

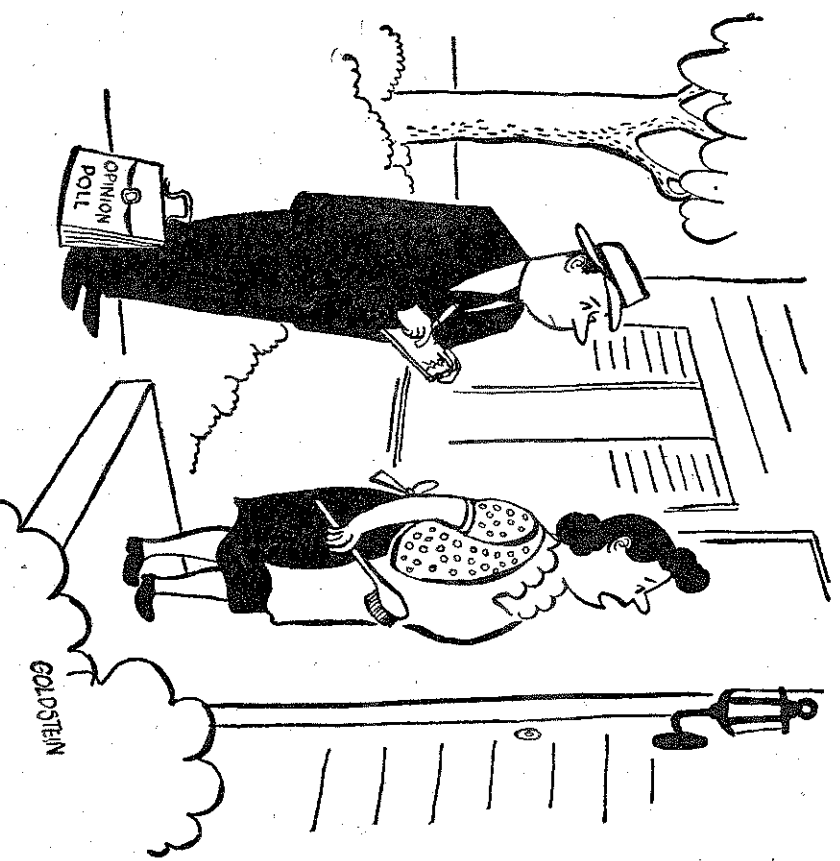
Among the "No's," 55 men expected a depression and 55 women expected war, while 74 men and women didn't know but were expecting no good just the same. Among owners of businesses 66 expected a depression, 16 war, and 32 didn't know which to blame but were plainly pessimistic. Half of those listing incomes over \$5,000 looked for a depression.

Another question on which figures were supplied is, "Do you think that social legislation such as government control of wages, prices and profits will raise your standard of living?"

While 10 men and 26 women didn't know, 45 men and 54 women thought it would; and 45 men and 20 women thought it wouldn't. These, too, were about equally distributed between employees and business owners. In the over \$5,000 bracket only 3 said they didn't know on this one while 50 said "Yes," and 47 said "No."

Full results of the poll will be published when the tabulation is completed.

A one-act play to be written by members of Wealth Incorporated will be read at one of the Friday evening programs soon.



"Dear, what in my opinion are the chief causes of inflation?"

—From The Saturday Review

BOOKS AND PAMPHLETS

DEMOCRACY VERSUS SOCIALISM. By Max Hirsch. New York: The Robert Schalkenbach Foundation. 1948, 470 pp. \$3.00.

The incessant demand for Max Hirsch's *Democracy Versus Socialism* from those who fail to find in newer books a thorough exposition of the subject, was virtually a mandate for the publishing of the fourth edition of this old classic. In November, 1948, the books rolled off the presses and almost before the ink was dry on these much-sought pages, a quarter of the number printed had been sold.

In this monumental work the author analyzes socialism from both the economic and ethical viewpoints.

With scientific thoroughness he traces the existing social conditions and tendencies which have enhanced the attractiveness of socialism and made its progress possible. Then, point by point he dissects the Marxian doctrines and shows the inevitable outcome of a Socialist economy.

Published first in 1901 *Democracy Versus Socialism* has done yeoman service for almost fifty years. Its author, a contemporary of Henry George, spent much of his life in Australia but traveled widely in other countries. The fruits of his observations and wide reading are richly distributed throughout his work.

—V. G. PETERSON

THE DIFFICULTIES OF A BEAK, Henry George League, Melbourne, 40 pp.

"E. W. C." we suspect, is none other than Edgar W. Culler, one of the shining lights of the Australian Georgist world. A "beak," be it further explained, is a "stipendiary magistrate," if that helps. In this pamphlet E. W. C. invites his readers to "come on to the Bench with me and take a look at close quarters at the working out of a few of our modern laws which may look right enough on paper." Included are illuminating essays on laws pertaining to labor, property, farmers, transportation. The "beak" demonstrates that much of our legislation (American as well as Australian) is loaded in favor of privilege and against basic human rights. Also included are some words of sound advice to those who would further the cause of freedom and justice.

—ROBERT CLANCY

ECONOMIC SYSTEMS. By Harold G. Moulton. Washington, D. C. The Brookings Institution, 1948.

This pamphlet deals with Free Enterprise, Communism, Socialism, Hybrids, and Regulation Compatible with Private Enterprise. It is Chapter VI of a book on "Controlling Factors in Economic Development," in which the author proposes to analyze forces responsible for economic progress. The volume is to be in two parts; the first dealing with the past, and the second with the future. *Economic Systems* traces the history of free enterprise, which is commonly believed to be *laissez faire*. Moulton states that private enterprise in its entirety never was characteristic of the economy of nations, but there was a degree at least of centralized control and regulation for the purpose of cutting monopoly. However the generally acknowledged system of the nineteenth century

and early twentieth purported to be free-enterprise.

Distinctions between communism and state socialism are clearly set forth in their present day connotations. That increasing government control has brought about hybrid systems, according to Moulton's findings, was not the result of conscious planning by economic theorists or social reformers, but rather a drift as a result of world depression. Applying this to the United States and referring to the New Deal program, real recovery was not achieved and unemployment continued, until World War II. Such reform measures do not get at basic principle of free enterprise, says the author. He goes on to bring out the intended goals of the Roosevelt program were curbing of monopoly and abuse in big business, public ownership, supplanting private enterprise in certain fields, the securing of prosperity via increased income of the masses and the lowering of income of the classes, and control of business cycles by monetary policy. However no mention is made of what the "basic principle of private enterprise" really involves.

It is pointed out that our government is not constituted to permit of unified control, and before expounding the author wished to have it clearly understood that at this point he is not concerned with methods for preventing industrial depressions, but only government control of the economic system. The analysis following reaches the conclusion that a controlled economy is incompatible with our governmental system thus effective administration is not possible, as a central national authority with a master plan is required for successful operation.

The remainder of the chapter deals with regulation compatible with private enterprise. It treats of "natural" monopolies and while, of course, divergence of opinion enters here, nevertheless a logical presentation is set forth, concluding that regulation, rather than communism, socialism, or hybrid systems of control will insure individual liberty. The third choice here appears to be between modified totalitarianism and unrestricted free-enterprise. This is another instance where the complete phrase "*Laissez faire, laissez aller*," "Clear the ways and let things alone," has been overlooked. However, I am left with a desire to pursue further the author's treatment of the subject, especially Chapter X of the larger work, "Can Depressions be Prevented?" in order that I might compare this with the treatment given by others.

—JOHN T. TETLEY

LAND VALUE REFORM IN THEORY AND PRACTICE, By James Dundas White. London. Land and Liberty Press, 1948, 61 pp. 3 pence.

Mr. White, author of other useful books on this subject, begins the present work with an outline of the principles underlying land-value reform. The first principle is that all men have a right to the use of the earth, that the land of a country "should be treated as the common inheritance of its people." The author believes in "beginning at home" and sets forth a proposed National Land Rent Bill, which is designed specifically for Great Britain, and which contains provisions for land valuation, registering, and collection of rent. Explanatory notes are

appended, including a discussion on Annual Land-Value versus Capital Land-Value. Mr. White discards the latter as tending to diminish as land-values are taxed, and advocates the former, defining it as "the best annual rent that could reasonably be obtained for the land . . ." Thus he establishes that the reform advocated is in the nature of rent payment rather than a tax.

—ROBERT CLANCY

EL MUNDO DEL FUTURO (The World of the Future) By Carlos P. Carranza. Buenos Aires. Libreria Madrid, 220 pp. 5 Argentine Pesos.

It is quite encouraging to find Henry George's thought so well understood and appreciated abroad, as it is in this book with the subtitle, "American Capitalism or Russian Communism?"

With the light that Henry George throws on our economic system, the author analyzes the economic and social system as it exists in countries like the United States and in the Soviet Union, which he visited in 1936. He considers our system largely a private monopolistic system, and thence a state monopolistic system. As regards government, he believes that a decentralized, democratic government, with emphasis on the rights of the individual and of minorities, is the best.

Soviet production, Carranza points out, is much inferior in quantity and quality to capitalist production, especially to that in the United States. However, when he was there in 1936, he found no man or woman deprived of a "decorous means of earning his living," nor homeless, nor did he find any begging or prostitution. There seemed to be "no pariahs." Here on the other hand, he saw the spectacle of "millions of capable youth" entering the struggle for existence with all roads barred.

The author confines himself mainly to dealing with the economic root of the trouble, rather than with the details of the brutal tyranny in U.S.S.R. or the tragic details of our repeated crises and depressions here. He condemns government planning, but does not give much space to the details of our monstrous manner of taxation. He advocates transformation of the tax system of the State so that its income would consist principally of economic rent, the income of the natural monopolies organized as services, and taxes on those activities, the restriction and even the disappearance of which, would be a social advantage. He would do away with artificial monopolies and re-establish competition.

—MATTHEW OSSIAS

Pertinent Comment

By FRANK SALOR
(From The Labor Herald)

The most unfair tax, we would say, is the income tax which is a direct levy upon an individual's productive capacity. The harder he works the more shares of his labor-produced wealth is he compelled to surrender. His very industriousness is penalized more severely than if he had been drunk and disorderly twelve times a year or otherwise been a disreputable citizen. . . . All taxes, license fees, and duties are unfair but some are more unfair than others.

Is This True About Business?

By JEROME JOACHIM

THE PRESENT inflationary spiral is primarily due to the business man's selfish desire to grab all he can".

The above mis-statement constitutes the basis of communism in all parts of the world. Spoken glibly—and accepted as a major premise by millions without question—it makes an excellent starting point for arguments favoring controlled economy.

To begin with, it is *not* the business man today whose so-called selfishness has caused high prices. The business man today is no more selfish than he was in the depths of the depression when these same "controlled economists" said that low prices were wrecking the country. The cause of high prices today is the result of the fact that there is more buying power than there is goods and in a free or comparatively free economy, this invariably results in an increase in price. An increase in price, when accompanied by increased wages does not necessarily mean that an hour's labor buys less commodities—in fact it may mean an increase in buying power.

But it is the so-called selfishness of *all* of our population that has brought about a decrease in real price. The average American—can buy an automobile in America if he wants to work hard and forego the purchase of other things instead. Millions of Russians, where the "selfish" business man has been eliminated, could not own an automobile no matter how hard they worked.

It was because Henry Ford was "selfish" and wanted a lot of money and power, that he created a situation which brought the price of cars down from \$2000 to \$500, while at the same time he caused to be created a vast empire of tools and machines which enabled men to produce millions of automobiles at these low prices.

It was the "selfishness" of hundreds of our industrialists that caused this country to have forty corporations, each with physical assets in excess of a billion dollars. What nation on earth would not welcome these billions of dollars worth of tools and factories which contribute so greatly to the common welfare?

What great deed in history has ever been accomplished by altruists? Who can name a single act that contributed to the well being of so many people as did the building of the American railroads by our "robber barons" who functioned purely from the most selfish of motives? What nation on earth has ever made so many cars available, for so many people as has that nation which operated purely from selfish motives? America has no natural advantages over other countries. Her resources, without the work of free people, were absolutely valueless in the beginning. Manhattan Island sold for \$24. The billions of dollars worth of tangible wealth which now exists on that island were all created through the labor of free men, all working for their own selfish interests. The iron range in Minnesota, which has meant so much to the development of this country, wasn't worth anything until thousands of people—working for a selfish interest—had built steamships, railroads and billions of dollars worth of other tools with which to make this ore of use to mankind.

China probably has far greater resources than America has ever had and so has India. But they are relatively valueless, because government in those countries has taken so much from all who made any effort that few have the will to work. A thousand of our most ruthless capitalists, given free rein in China for a generation without interference from government, would make it a rich nation. All the government controls and regulations in the world will never make China great. Only the right to keep what one produces will ever do that!

I have often pointed out that the function of government is to prevent one man from stealing what another man produces. Today, in America to some degree and in Europe to a much greater degree, government's principle function is to take from the best producers and distribute to those who are either incompetent or unwilling to work. To the extent that this is done by government, will our civilization become more and more decadent. In the early days of government, those in power could keep that power by dividing what they stole in taxes with a few of the lords and barons who were in key places. By so doing, government made it unnecessary for the most capable people to work at all.

Later—as the democratic idea broadened, it was necessary to divide the "loot" with an increasingly larger group. Today, in America we have the spectacle of a government which steals from the people for the benefit of organized groups numbering into the millions. While the theft in the beginning kept only the lords and barons idle, present day government aims seem to be to give millions the impression that their welfare lies not in greater effort but in looking to government to help them steal from their fellow man. All of Europe is convinced that their salvation lies in that direction. Apparently a majority of Americans are convinced of the same thing!

ONE OF THE last American films shown inside Russia was "Grapes of Wrath", and it was distributed in an attempt to depict the U. S. as a decadent nation on the brink of economic collapse. But the Russian theater-goers were impressed chiefly by the fact that the "Oakies" and "Arkies" traveled around the country freely and in their own automobiles. The Unimaginative commissars never anticipated such a response.

"One of the last news reels exhibited in Russia had shots of Detroit police breaking up strike riots during the administration of Justice Frank Murphy, then governor. They were supposed to convince Soviet audiences of the brutality of American capitalists. But the comrades' comments were: "Look! In the America they don't shoot the workers; they just knock them down. And look at the fine shoes and clothing even the strikers are wearing."

The showing of "How Green Is My Valley", the story of a strike in Wales, caused a curious reaction in Russia. Stalin's subjugated folk were astonished that workers could strike in such a capitalistic country as England and even more astounded that such a subject could be made into a movie for general distribution.

From "National Whirligig," Chicago Journal of Commerce, Nov. 6, 1948.

Friday Evenings at Eight



The Rt. Rev. Msgr. L. G. Ligutti, our candidate for "Catholic Man of the Hour" has promised to speak at the Henry George School soon, on the subject, "Resettlement in America."

As we go to press we cannot get a confirmation on this because the Monsignor's recent appointment

as Official Observer of the Holy See at the U. N. Food and Agriculture Organization meetings keeps him flying from Washington to Des Moines; where he still edits The Christian Farmer for the National Catholic Rural Life Conference, and shepherds the cause of displaced persons for which he has done most enlightened work the past two years. Father Ligutti writes: "Hold the date anyway, you can always pick up someone better, and a wiser Georgist." Such provoking modesty!

A prominent New York lawyer and nephew of Dr. McGlynn, Joseph Whelan, will tell delightful stories of the "Rebel, Priest and Prophet" on January 21. On January 28, Philip Cornick, Member of the Research Staff of the Institute of Public Administration, will discuss "Present Trends in Taxation." Should Monsignor Ligutti fail to arrive, Mr. Cornick will, if possible, substitute for him.

The first speaker in February will be Charles Johnson Post, who will tell "How to Cure the Housing Shortage." On February 11, the Eve of Lincoln's Birthday, Herman L. Barbery will give "Selected Readings from Henry George." This will be a biography of George as taken from his own writings and indicating the development of his fine literary style.

New York

(Continued from Page Five)

High School, Brooklyn; and the Bryant High School, Queens—as well as in libraries and "Y's" in Manhattan, Brooklyn, Queens and Mount Vernon. This increasing regional work is in line with the current campaign of the New York Adult Education Council (of which the Henry George School is a member) to bring more education to the communities.

The New York School for Social Research, New York's leading adult education institute outside of the regular colleges—is offering a course in *Progress and Poverty* to begin February 12, with an instructor from the Henry George School—George Royal, one of its best and most popular teachers, who will use the school's manual and lesson sheets. The tuition fee will be \$12.50.

The Henry George School is on the air over a new station in Newark—WVNV. The schools in New York and Newark are sponsoring a 5-minute news broadcast at 10:30 P.M. every day, with Bob Harris as newscaster.

Don't Miss

GOVERNMENT TAKE ALL

By JEROME JOACHIM
Publisher, The Berwyn Beacon,
Berwyn, Illinois

In the February Issue